

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1-3 are being presented as new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheet (Figures 1-3)

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

I. Claim Amendments

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Support for the amendment to independent claim 1, in which the phrase “wherein a moisture content of the kenaf fiber is not more than 4% by mass based on the mass of the kenaf fiber” was added, is found at least on page 12, lines 6-7 of the specification. Support for the amendment to claims 1 and 2, in which the phrase “based on the mass of the fiber-reinforced resin composition” was added, is found throughout the Examples on pages 22-29 of the specification, such as in Table 1 on page 26 of the specification. No new matter is added. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 2 were objected to because the mass basis was not provided in the claims. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify that the basis is the mass of the fiber-reinforced resin composition. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

III. Drawings

Figures 1-3 were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152. New corrected drawings are attached herewith and are to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

IV. Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-4 and 8-10 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamashita et al. (JP 2003-009994), Takagi (JP 2003-128900), or Inao et al. (JP 2003-096321). Claims 1-6 and 8-13 were rejected under § 103(a) as being obvious over Inao et al. (JP 2002-

356562). Claims 7 and 14-18 were rejected under § 103(a) as being obvious over Inao et al. (JP 2002-356562) in view of Heta et al. (JP 2000-141524).

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the prior art rejections in view of the amendment to independent claim 1, in which the phrase “wherein a moisture content of the kenaf fiber is not more than 4% by mass based on the mass of the kenaf fiber” is added.

V. Conclusion

Applicants submit that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3/3/08

By Andrew S. Baluch

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 945-6014
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

George C. Beck
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,072

Andrew S. Baluch
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 57,503